

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application and for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative in a telephone interview on February 17, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner suggested amending the claims to put the application in better condition for allowance.

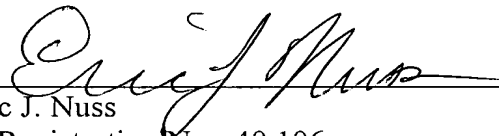
By the present amendment, Applicants hereby cancel claims 18 and 25 and respectfully submit no new matter has been entered.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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